

# Village News

in Swindon Village

*Your local Newsletter sponsored by the  
Parish Council and delivered by volunteers*

No. 402

March 2014

## March

- |                |           |   |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Monday         | 3         | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Allan Wells - Gardening for bees                                |
| Wednesday      | 5         | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Rosemary Prosser - One Egg or Two                                     |
| Saturday       | 8         | Scouts collecting jumble around inner village area  |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm<br/>With Public Session.</b>                                  |
| Wednesday      | 19        | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Jackie Perry - Women in Work, 1850 to 1950. Visitors welcome |
| Saturday       | 22        | Scouts Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11am  |
| Wednesday      | 26        | Wine Club - Village Hall Wine tasting & Quiz  |

## April

- |                |          |  |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Wednesday      | 2        | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Gill Garrett - Ghosts on Severn Way                                      |
| Monday         | 7        | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Adrian Lyster - Acupuncture and musculoskeletal pain               |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm<br/>With Public Session.</b>                                     |
| Saturday       | 12       | Swindon Village Society Annual bird and nature walk - Coombe Hill - Meet Village Hall 9.30am Non-members welcome |
| Saturday       | 12       | Church Cake & Coffee Morning - Village Hall 10.30am  |

*(Full minutes of all meetings are displayed on the Parish Council notice boards and on the Parish website. They are also available on request from the Chairman.)*

Last month I mentioned the tree works that the Parish Council were planning to undertake. The chestnut trees in the Manor Court Amenity Area have had some major branches lopped off to ensure they don't fall of their own accord. Whilst this seems to have been straightforward, the felling of the tree in the allotments turned out to be less so. We should have expected trouble when an aggressive robin tried to defend it. The tree was taken down without too much drama but that was the beginning rather than the end of the problem. The small truck used by the contractor slipped off the edge of the path. It refused to respond to gentle persuasion and even the presence of a tractor could not free it. It ended up embedded in mud up to its axles and had to remain on site for a few days until the cavalry (in the form of a JCB) arrived.

Staying with the allotments, I am very grateful to Ian, our Allotments Manager, for rounding up a band of helpers and doing some minor works around the site. Whilst we seem to have avoided the major flooding problems seen in 2007 the drainage of the allotments continues to be a concern. Local ditches and drains don't seem to be cleared as a matter of course; in fact it can be difficult or impossible to find anyone willing to take responsibility. Ian has also collected the allotment rents; a massive thank you to Ian for doing that (asking for money can be a thankless task) and to the allotment holders for paying up. Hopefully we are starting to repay them by felling the tree and generally trying to be good landlords.

I have to admit I was unaware of the existence of Neighbourhood Co-ordination Groups (NCGs). The Borough Council have run NCGs to facilitate liaison between the Council, the police and the community. However, it has been found that their function overlaps to a degree with activities undertaken by the Parish Council. We are now discussing with the Borough Council combining the activities that the NCG would have covered in our own Parish Council meetings. This would (hopefully) mean a regular presence from the police and the Borough and County Councils and it would give both our councillors and our residents a chance to raise issues and to ask questions. It is early days but the Parish Council see this as a positive initiative. We now have to look at the details and ensure that we implement something that best serves the needs of the parish.

As costs are cut across local government it is increasingly falling on the communities themselves to lend a hand with minor works. The park in Swindon Village is a case in point. It is becoming litter strewn and untidy. It might mean that in future the Parish Council will need to work with local residents to achieve the outcomes we all want. We will need to look closely at issues such as insurance and health and safety but it would be good for the Parish Council to work in partnership with the community. The work in the allotments is an example where goodwill and co-operation are achieving the goal. I would be happy to hear the thoughts of others on this.

I recently mentioned that we are not the only Swindon Parish Council in the country. There is plenty of scope for confusion between parishes even in the local area. There is Bourton-on-the-Hill and Bourton-on-the-Water, Winson and Winstone, Caln St. Aldwyns and Caln St. Dennis, Ampney St. Mary and Ampney St. Peter and Shipton Moyne and Shipton Oliffe. There are some wonderfully quaint parish names. I recently attended a course which was also attended by a clerk who represented several parishes; his job title sounded like something out of the Vicar of Dibley.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## Village Hall

**The Annual General Meeting  
of the Village Hall Management Committee  
will be held on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.15pm  
in the Lounge Bar of the Village Hall.**

Positions that will be up for re-election at the AGM are:

1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer

Committee representatives and co-opted members will be appointed at the committee meeting which will follow the AGM.

This is your opportunity to have a say on the future of the hall so please come along.

Don't just sit back and leave it to someone else as you may find that someone else will do just the same as you and make no effort to secure its future. A negative response could result in a bleak future for this community asset.

The future is in your hands, not just the current committee, so make the effort, show an interest.

**Peter Piff**

## Services and events in March

Sunday	2nd	<i>Sunday before Lent</i> 10.30am 6.30pm	Together @Ten Thirty Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	4th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7.00pm	Holy Communion
Sunday	9th	<i>Lent 1</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
Tuesday	11th	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Lent Group
Sunday	16th	<i>Lent 2</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Lent Group
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Lent 3</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	25th	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Lent Group
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Gospel Choir Concert in aid of 'The Rock' St Matthew's Church
Sunday	30th	<i>Lent 4</i> 9.15am 10.30am 6.30pm	<i>Mothering Sunday</i> Holy Communion Mothering Sunday family service Evening Praise at St MaryMagdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke

## **Ash Wednesday 2014**

Lent begins this month on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. All communicant members of the Church of England are encouraged to attend a service on Ash Wednesday as part of their own personal preparation for Holy Week and Easter. There will be a service of Holy Communion in St Lawrence church at 7pm.

To emphasise the special nature of the season of Lent, there will be a service of Holy Communion in St Lawrence at 7pm every Tuesday until Easter. Following the service, the Tuesday Lent Group will be using a study course based on the Lord's Prayer from a new series entitled 'Pilgrim'. Further details can be obtained from the Team Office on 244373 or [admin@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:admin@northchelt.org.uk)

## **Prayer Every Day in Lent**

The Bishop of Gloucester is again asking us to ensure that our church buildings are prayed in every day during Lent. St Lawrence church will be open every day at 9.30am for a short time of prayer using some special material for Lent. Anyone is very welcome to attend. Why not 'take something on for Lent' and aim to attend at least one extra service each week?

## **Mothering Sunday**

Do join us at 10.30am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March for a Family Service for Mothering Sunday. This will be a relaxed and informal service following the same pattern as our monthly 'Together @Ten Thirty' service. Do come along and join our celebration of all that we have to say 'thank you' for in our mums!

## **Revd Liz Palin**

## **Help needed!**

Can you spare a little of your precious time to help keep St Lawrence Church looking beautiful?

We would be very grateful if you could help with general church cleaning, cleaning the church brass or arranging flowers in the church. All these tasks are carried out on a rota basis and you would only be called upon three or four times a year.

Please contact one of the following to offer or to ask for more details of what's involved.

Brass cleaning	-	Mary	01242 692423
Flower arranging	-	Val	01242 522245
Church cleaning	-	Joan	01242 233016

Thanking you in anticipation.

**Mary Halliwell**

## **Enquiries about baptisms or weddings**

If you would like to enquire about baptism (also called christening) or would like to book a wedding in St Lawrence church, please contact the Team Office, which is open Monday and Tuesday from 8am until 11am and Wednesday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The Office is based in St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

**You can contact me, the Revd Liz Palin (Assistant Curate) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk. , or the Revd Canon Michael Cozens (Team Rector) on 523177 or michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk .**

## **A view from the pew**

Frances Prior, archaeologist and historian, wrote: "Human beings are social animals and we all need to feel that we belong to a larger community." I think most of us would agree. Although I live in Up Hatherley, I go to church at St Lawrence. I certainly feel part of that community as well as the community where I live and, of course, we're all part of the larger Cheltenham community.

The archaeologist goes on: "...a community centred on a parish church is more than just a priest and churchwardens. It is heir to dozens of generations of priests and benefactors, often going back to Saxon or Norman times. This link with the past gives this insignificant community not just legitimacy, but a measure of prestige and influence too."

So there we have it. The St Lawrence Church - and I mean the people who make up the church, as well as the building - is significant and important in the community because of what it is now and because of what it has been for hundreds of years. It is indeed heir to "dozens of generations of priests and churchwardens" going back to at least Norman times.

As the 'church' of St Lawrence we are part of the story of our church. That's why we take very seriously our responsibility to continue the work of this church which began when the congregation lived lives very different from our lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

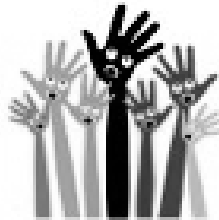
Our St Lawrence building has been the place where people living in the village of Swindon (probably meaning the hill where swine are kept) could worship through hundreds of years. Forms of worship have changed but the God we praise has not. The building has changed but its purpose has not. At present we are planning some physical changes aimed at making the layout more welcoming to young families.

So we in this generation continue the work of our predecessors in this place.

**Ralph Griffin**

# ROTARY CLUB OF CHELTENHAM

## PRESENTS...



## THE BEACON *Gospel Choir*

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[yourchurchevent.com](http://yourchurchevent.com) // [info@yourchurchevent.com](mailto:info@yourchurchevent.com)



On Wednesday 22nd January we had our Annual General Meeting. The chairman, Ray Hales, announced that he was standing down as chairman after many years in that roll. The other members of the committee were all willing to continue so they were voted in en bloc. Mandy Jilbert was elected chairman and I now combine the role of Secretary with my previous role of Social Secretary.

Ray Hales gave his report covering our activities in 2013 and said that although he is no longer chairman he would still help in any way possible. Ray presented the annual Trophy for the Sweet Gooseberry wine competition held in October to Jim Taylor.

After the business part of the evening we did two quiz sheets, one a picture quiz of personalities who died during 2013 and the other a quiz of things that happened locally and internationally during 2013 and we enjoyed an American Supper.

As I write this we are looking forward to the February meeting which will be the Doug Wilkins wine competition and pudding night. On Saturday 1st March we have our dance with TANDEM, a father and daughter very well liked in the wine circle clubs and there will be wine tasting and a quiz at our meeting on the 26th of this month.

**Roy Harper**  
Secretary



*St Lawrence Church*

# *Cake & Coffee Morning*

*Saturday 12th April*

*10.30am till 12noon*

*Village Hall*

*Admission £1*

*All welcome*

*Gifts of cakes and raffle prizes will be gratefully received*

*Mary Halliwell - Tel. 01242 692423*



## Wednesday Club

Our meeting in February was our AGM. It really was a dreadful night, absolutely pouring and blowing a gale. Despite this, a few hardy members came along to hear about the plans for this year and, when the business was finished, we played a few games of bingo and did a quiz.

We are in the process of arranging two trips this year. One will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> June to the Abbey House Garden in Malmesbury. Also, in September we will be going to the Black Country Museum in Dudley. I shall be putting out lists at our March meeting for people to put their names down if they wish to come along on these visits.

Another date for your diaries is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June for our Coffee Morning. This helps raise funds for the Wednesday Club. There will be more information nearer to the date. Anyone can come along to this; you do not have to be a member of the club.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March and our speaker will be Rosemary Prosser. I believe she ran a guest house and the title of her talk is "One Egg or Two". Should be interesting!

There will also be a plant stall at this meeting and so please bring along some plants to sell. There will also be books for sale each month and so don't come along without your purses.

Look forward to seeing you in March.

**Pauline Wright**

A reader has a modern

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The update on the Joint Core Strategy after our January meeting showed that we are in something of a waiting phase now while the many inputs are assessed. However, we are not standing still. A Parliamentary group has been formed and they are pressing for changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. Save the Countryside has sent an input in to the committee dealing with effects on the green belt and a delegation expects to go and give evidence to the committee.

In addition new figures from the Office of National Statistics which take account of the 2011 Census should be published in a couple of months' time. It is all very much to play for.

Meanwhile life goes on. Last month I gave some of our future programme. In addition, in October we have a talk entitled 'Along the River Severn' by an old friend, Alan Pilbeam. In November Angela Panrucker will return with 'Just Hanging About', the second of her talks on the origin and meaning of pub signs.

As I write I am waiting for the floods to clear so I can go and make sure that the hides at the Coombe Hill Nature Reserve have survived for our walk in April. Last year the main hide was completely destroyed when it filled with water in the floods and it could not escape as the floods receded and the weight completely collapsed the structure. The new hide is higher and has vents so should have survived. When we visited a few years back we saw 28 different species. I doubt we will manage that again but do come and join us.

Our March the talk will be on Women at Work, 1850 - 1950.

Annual family membership is £10 while individual membership is £5. Payment can be made at any meeting or by post or hand to 3, Swindon Hall, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9QR. For more information call me on 01242 521723.

**Barry Simon**

## **Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers**

The Sainsburys Active Kids vouchers scheme is open to a variety of organisations, not just schools, and Swindon Village Scout Group has signed up for it.

Vouchers given out at the checkout are exchanged by participating groups for sporting and games equipment.

Even if you have no direct connection with a children's organisation you probably have a neighbour who does, so please accept the vouchers and pass them on to the school, one of the playgroups or the Scouts who would all be grateful for your support.

Our February meeting started with a minute's silence in memory of Una Henderson. Una had been a very loyal and active member until she became ill a few years ago. Several members had attended her funeral.

In February Terry O'Shaughnessy took us on an adventure on the high seas aboard some of the world's largest sailing ships. Having retired, he then spent the next ten years sailing as a crew member and illustrated his talk with many pictures he had taken on board. From the Endeavour (a replica of Cook's ship) to the Lord Nelson (built especially to accommodate disabled people and wheelchairs), 2, 3 and 4 masts, umpteen sails of various shapes and sizes (each individually named), a forest of rigging (each rope with a separate name), the language and traditions, the living conditions and technicalities of sailing these huge tall ships in all weathers were revealed to us. The realisation of how much and how hard the work is climbing up to adjust the sails, hauling on the ropes, helming (steering) and maintaining the equipment made the sailors of old a tough and hardy lot. 'Down Time' included swimming and watching whales and dolphins. We now know what a Dog Watch, a Royal and a Yardarm really are.

A lunch of fish and chips at Simpsons was much enjoyed with some members walking home to work off the calories. We have much to look forward to in the coming months. There are invitations from Prestbury and Southam to their parties, a Forensic Science talk, Clay Pigeon Shooting, the Annual Council Meeting in the Town Hall and Ladies' Day at the National Hunt Festival. The Gloucester Federation have a Racing Club who visit stables and attend race days at Cheltenham amongst other activities. The County have for a number of years had a hospitality suite at the annual Cheltenham Festival. This event is enjoyed by many members at a special rate and they can make use of their own bar, food and betting facilities and watch all the proceedings on the closed circuit TV if they wish. However, the opportunity to dress up and take part in the many other facilities on offer and watch the races from the Grandstand, in the hope of backing a winner, make it a day to remember. An afternoon tea at the Daffodil is booked and also a meal at Brasserie Blanc. Several members are using their bus passes for a visit to see the snowdrops at the Rococo Gardens in Painswick, then there will be a Social Skittles Evening as a warm-up for the County Tournament, a craft afternoon at Wendy's with pancakes (bring your own filling) and a get-together arranged to form a Book Club for the less crafty members. A full diary indeed!

The speaker at our March meeting is Allan Wells who will be talking about 'Gardening for Bees' (when the weather improves!) and members will be forgetting their diets as there will be a Cake Sale to boost our funds! If you feel tempted to join us, we have seen several new faces recently, we shall be meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St Nicolas' Church Hall in Swindon Lane and you will be made very welcome.

**Sara Jefferies**

## **We are 50 years old! Group 50th Anniversary - 1964 - 2014**

1st Swindon Village Scout Group was first registered at Gilwell Park on 20th January 1964, which makes 2014 our 50th Anniversary. We have plans in place to mark the occasion, including a special commemorative badge and a group camp in June up at Cranham. With all the camps and activities we enjoyed in 2013, trying to make this year even more exciting will be quite a challenge - but I'm sure we'll give it a good go!

## **Polar Camp with Shurdington at Youlbury**

The Scouts' first camping weekend of the year was the Polar Camp held at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre near Oxford. We "camped" indoors in one of the lodges together with Shurdington Scouts who have been running this weekend in January for the last ten years. Friday evening involved a very muddy night hike around the local countryside with hot soup served on our return to camp. On Saturday morning we took part in archery, crate stacking and the 3G swing, all on-site. In the afternoon we took over the top of a double-decker bus to go in to Oxford, singing campfire songs at the tops of our voices! An exciting ice-skating session was followed by a visit to the Westgate Shopping Centre. Having worked up an appetite we all sat down for dinner at The First Floor Restaurant - 37 of us on one very long table - for an "all-you-can-eat" buffet of dishes from India, China and Thailand. I think it's fair to say everyone had their fill and the Scouts were complimented on their good behaviour by both staff and fellow diners. It was raining when we got back to camp, so we postponed the Saturday night campfire till Sunday morning, at dawn - that wasn't my idea! After a good cooked breakfast we explored the campsite, did some rifle shooting and played team games. Then we tidied up and, after lunch, we headed home, absolutely shattered! A huge thanks to Shurdington Scouts and their leaders for inviting us on their excellent camp. I'm sure we'll repeat the experience, if invited to!

## **Skiing at Gloucester Ski Centre**

Seventeen Scouts and three leaders took part in a skiing taster session at Gloucester Ski Centre. Once we were all kitted out with skis, boots and helmets we took to the beginners' slope. Amazingly, after just an hour, we all managed to ski the full length of the slope and some could even do it without falling over! Huge thanks to Sue Dermody who organised the evening and instructed us while managing to retain a sense of humour throughout. A terrific, fun evening enjoyed by all.

## **Record numbers**

At the end of January each year we have to count up our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders for our annual report to the Scout Association. It's great to report that the Group is bursting at the seams with 74 members in total, the highest number we've had for 20 years.

## **Sos**

1st Swindon Village Scouts

# Jumble Sale

On Saturday 22nd March at 11am

In the Village Hall

Admission 20p

## Jumble collection

Why not have an early Springtime decluttering and give your unwanted clutter to the Scouts?

The Scouts will be collecting jumble from homes in the inner village area on **Saturday 8th March between 10am and 12 noon.**

Jumble can be left out on your doorstep but please make sure it's clearly labelled for the Scouts.

Thank you for your continuing support.



## Do you need a Helping Hand?

If you are looking for an **alternative to residential care** or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we're here to help - **from 30 minutes per week to Live-in Care.**

Our **Cheltenham care team** has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.



To find out how we can help you,  
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visit: [www.helpinghands.co.uk](http://www.helpinghands.co.uk)

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## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Lesley Wall	07810 630 064 lesleyw@villageagent.grcc.org.uk
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Charlotte Mitchell (Mole)	701854
Hanging Tree Explorer Scouts	Dave Herbert / Rob Ellis	514825/244708
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Sandy Thornton	232045
Village Hall Secretary	Rose D’Gama	574964
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Jonathan Dyer	690016
Friends of the School	Charlotte Mitchell Mandy Harris	701854 chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art Club	Norman Scott	692394
Swindon Village Society Secretary	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
St. Stephen’s Cricket Club	Tony Jilbert	693639
Echo Correspondent	Elizabeth Heathcott	527753
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

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### **Monthly rates**

Whole page £30   Half page £15   Quarter page £7.50  
One sixth of a page £5

**Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.**  
Please send contributions to the editors:  
David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road  
or e-mail [village-news@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

## SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
	Cllr. Shannon Kerr	07954 128151
	Cllr. Arran Stibbe	07796 248658
	Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 / 07770 986078
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07890 205767
	Cllr. Paul Massey	07967 123221
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07890 205767
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: [www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk)

## ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Rector	Revd. Canon Michael Cozens The Rectory, 66 All Saints' Road	523177 <a href="mailto:michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk">michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk</a>
Assistant Curate	Revd. Liz Palin	575547 <a href="mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk">liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk</a>
Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	Val Smith	522245
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office		244373
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		<a href="mailto:admin@northchelt.org.uk">admin@northchelt.org.uk</a>

The office is open on Mondays and Tuesdays 8am to 11am and Wednesdays to Fridays 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editors or the Parish Council